

  
**VALOR**  
**23** \$1.50 US  
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# ← ZERO HOUR →



# VALOR™

**BUSIEK**  
**DORAN**  
**COOPER**

**END**  
**OF AN**  
**ERA**  
PART 5 OF 6



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I'M VALOR, AND I'M TRAVELLING  
THROUGH SPACE WITH MY WIFE,  
TASMIA. AT LEAST, I THINK  
SHE'S MY WIFE.

TIME AND MEMORY ARE  
PLAYING TRICKS ON US.  
THE PAST DOESN'T SEEM  
TO STAY THE SAME FROM  
MOMENT TO MOMENT,  
AND THE FUTURE IS LESS  
CERTAIN THAN EVER.

TWO HOURS AGO, WE RECEIVED  
A DISTRESS CALL FROM THE  
LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES,  
AND FOR A MOMENT, NEITHER  
OF US COULD REMEMBER  
WHO THEY WERE.

OUR BEST FRIENDS.  
OUR TEAMMATES.  
AND WE COULDN'T  
REMEMBER THEM!

WE ARE ON OUR WAY  
TO THEIR SIDE...

"END OF AN ERA", PART 5:

# INFINITE VALOR

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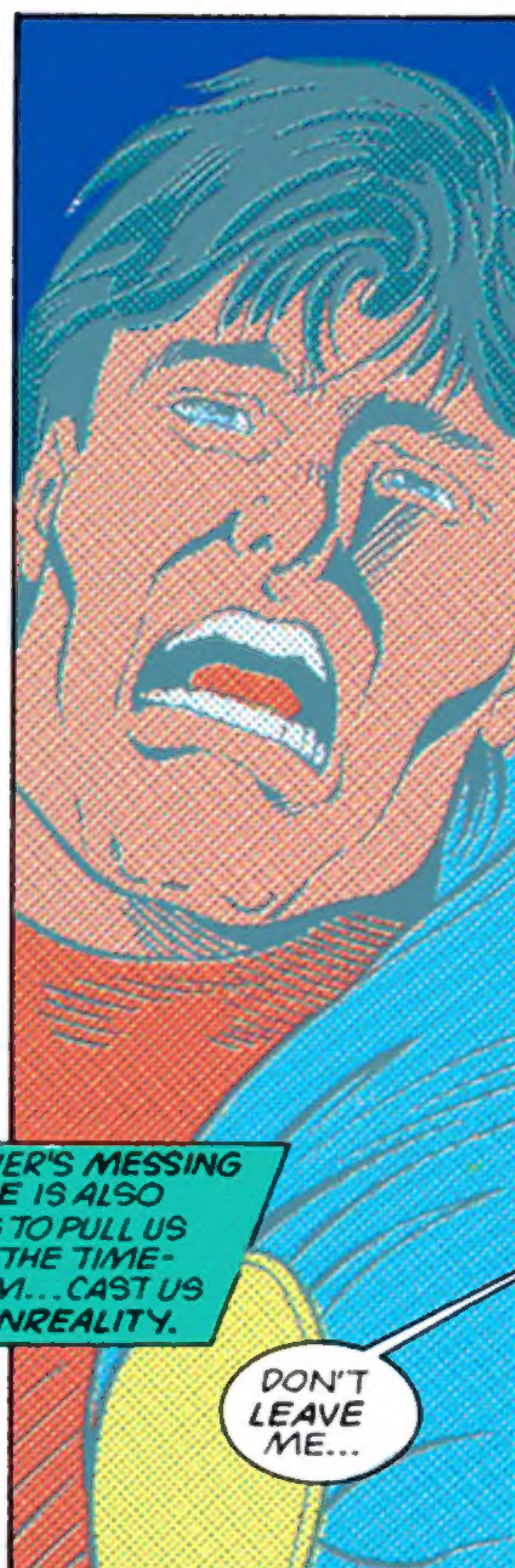
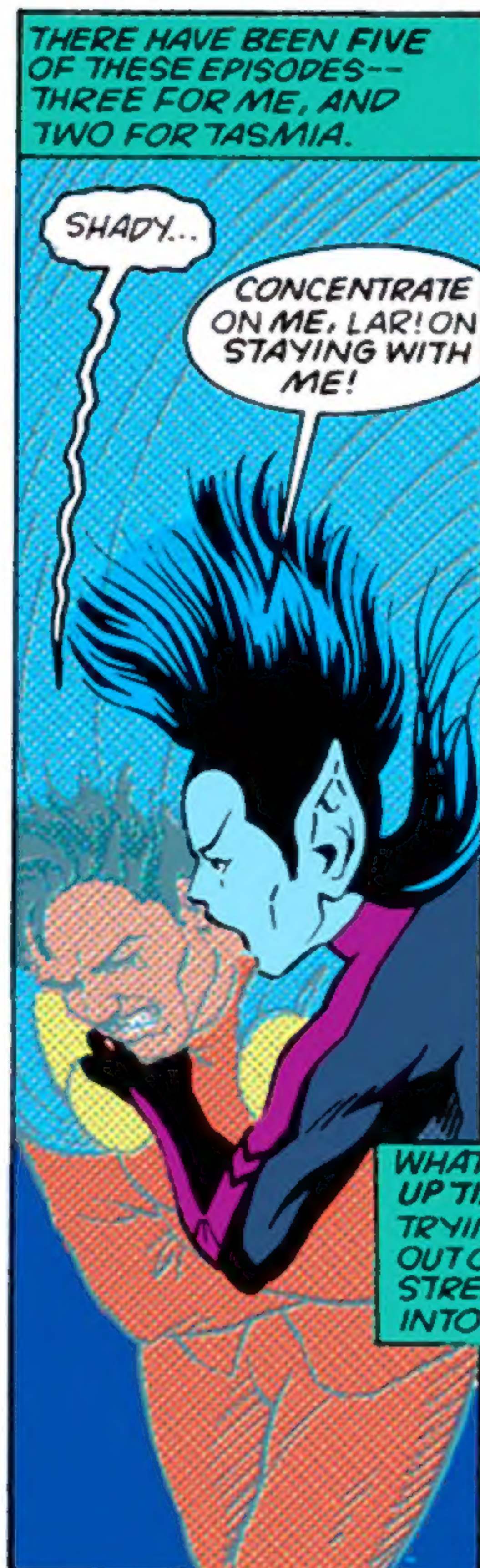
MARK WAID AND TOM McCRAW,  
PARTNERS IN TIME TRAVEL!

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I SEE MEMORIES THAT NEVER HAPPENED...

...FUTURES THAT CAN NEVER BE...

...FRIENDS THAT NEVER WERE...

...AND I CAST OUT WILDLY IN THE HOPE OF REACHING SOMETHING, ANYTHING, THAT WILL CHECK MY FALL....



...BUT THERE'S NOTHING...



...OR IS THERE?

EASY THERE, FRIEND.

I'VE GOT YOU.



AND THE TWO OF US HAUL EACH OTHER, STUMBLING AND BLIND, BACK TO REALITY...BACK TO TASMIA.

TURNING TO THANK MY BENEFACTOR, I SEE--



YOU?!

IT'S... IT'S NOT POSSIBLE--!



SOMEWHERE ELSE.

SOMEWHEN ELSE.

YOU!

YOU HAVE JUST READ THROUGH THE LIBRARY OF TIME, ROKK KRINN. KNOWING WHAT YOU KNOW--

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS, TRAPPER, BUT I WON'T LET YOU--

-- DO YOU REALLY WANT TO TEST YOUR NEWFOUND, UNTRIED SKILLS AGAINST ONE SUCH AS I?

I...

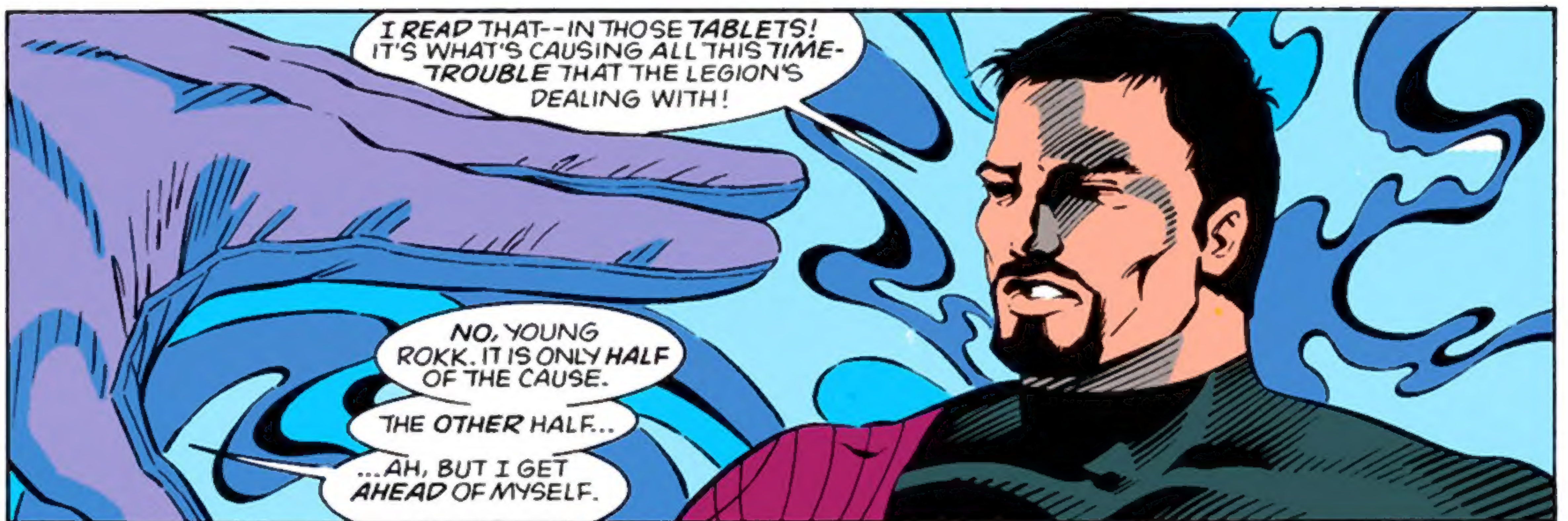
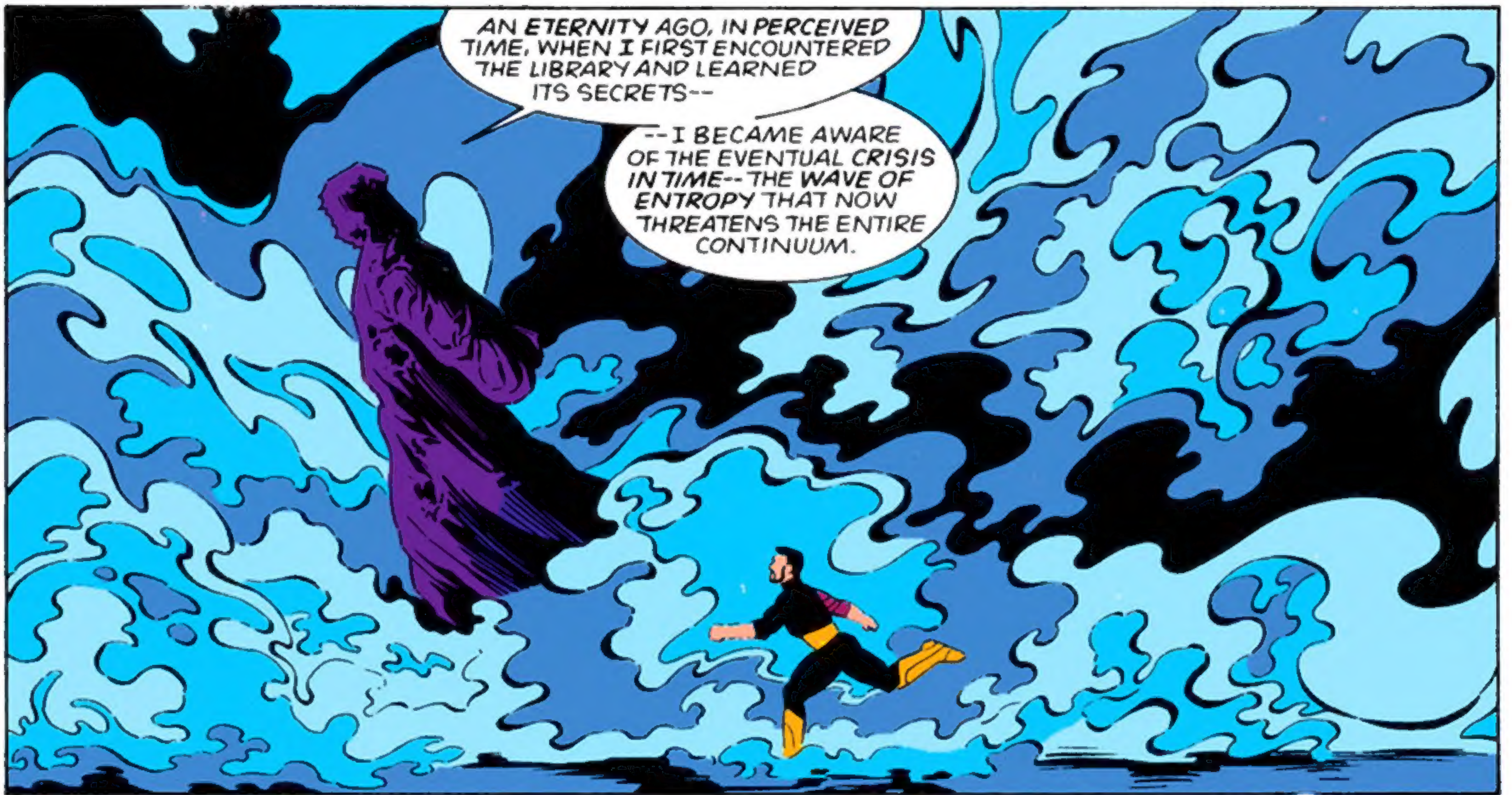
...I...

...WHAT DO YOU WANT, TRAPPER?

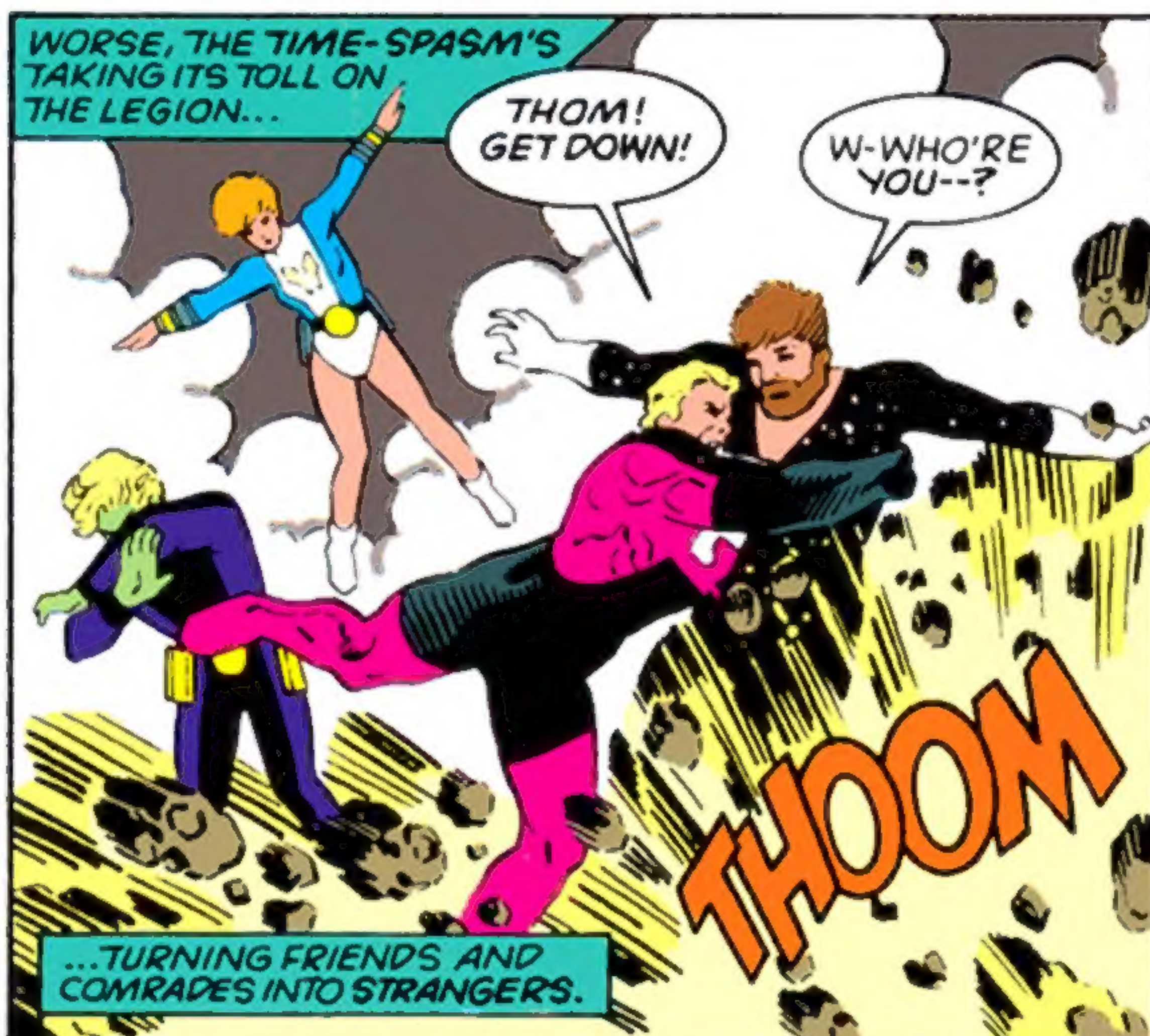
I WANT YOU TO LISTEN.

I HAVE A TALE TO TELL YOU...

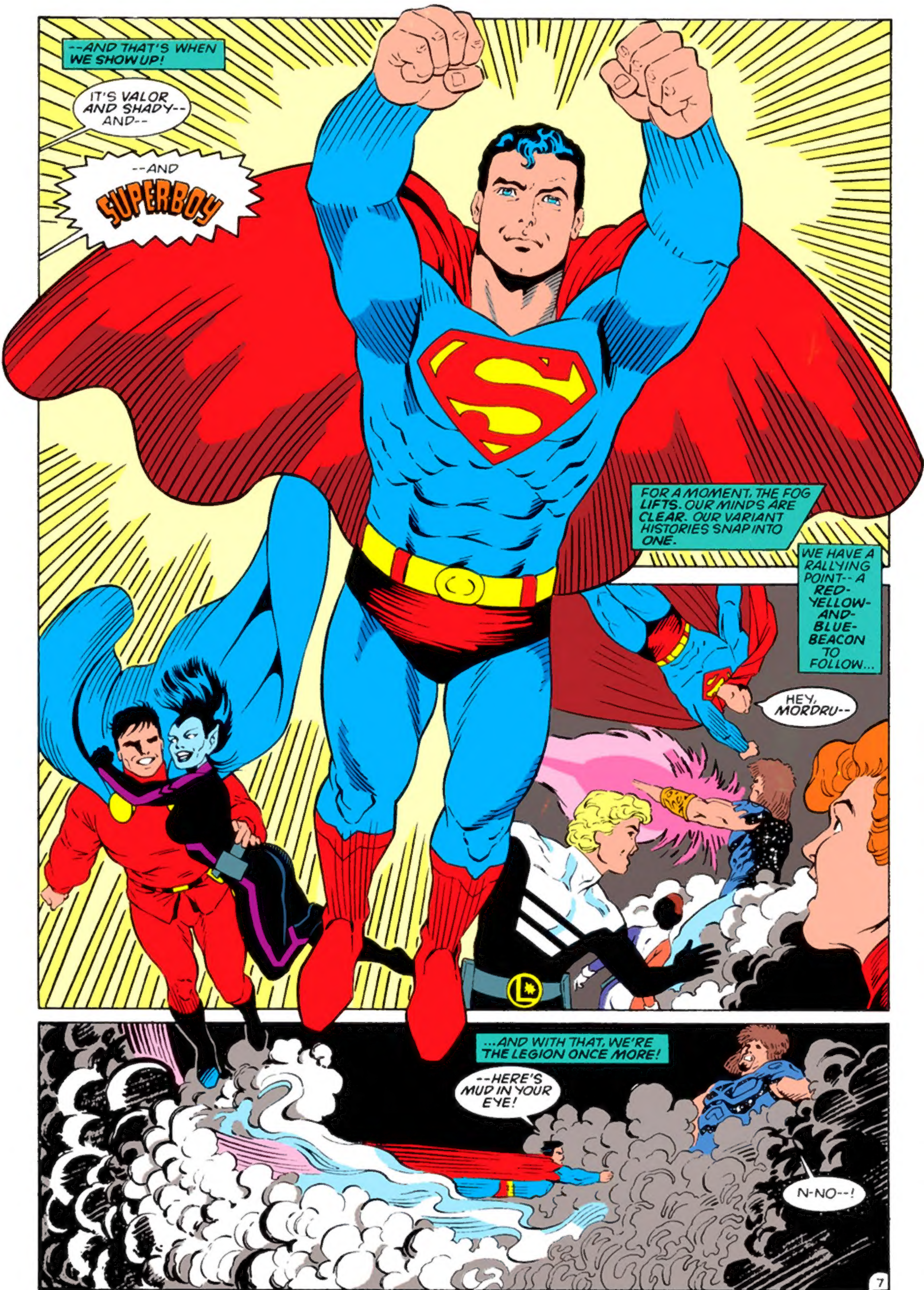












--AND THAT'S WHEN WE SHOW UP!

IT'S VALOR AND SHADY-- AND--

--AND  
**SUPERBOY**

FOR A MOMENT, THE FOG LIFTS. OUR MINDS ARE CLEAR. OUR VARIANT HISTORIES SNAP INTO ONE.

WE HAVE A RALLYING POINT-- A RED-YELLOW-AND-BLUE-BEACON TO FOLLOW...

HEY, MORDRU--

...AND WITH THAT, WE'RE THE LEGION ONCE MORE!

--HERE'S MUD IN YOUR EYE!

N-NO--!









IT'S A NICE IDEA--BURY MORDRU QUICKLY, SO HIS HYSTERICAL CLAUSTROPHOBIA KICKS IN AND HIS MIND SHUTS DOWN.

WE GIVE IT THE ACADEMY TRY...

...BUT IT DOESN'T WORK.

FOOLS!

ACTUALLY, HE'S GOT A POINT.

WHA-A-AT?!

YOU HAVE NO POWER WE CANNOT MATCH! NO STRATEGY WE CANNOT COUNTER!

YOU HAVE NO HOPE!

ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE GIVE UP?!

NO, BUT WE'VE GOT TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A SYMBOLIC VICTORY.

YOU'VE GIVEN US A SECOND WIND, SUPERBOY-- BUT UNLESS WE CAN FOLLOW THROUGH FAST, WE'RE SUNK.

I'VE GOT AN IDEA...

I DIDN'T LIKE IT, BUT DESPERATE TIMES CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES. AFTER A MOMENT'S DISCUSSION--





--WE DO THE ONLY  
THING I COULD  
THINK OF.

GLORITH!

LET THEM GO,  
GLORITH! SPARE  
THE LEGION--

--AND  
I'M YOURS  
FOREVER!

VALOR?  
YOU--  
YOU CAN'T  
BE--!



IT WASN'T RIGHT,  
PLAYING ON HER  
EMOTIONS LIKE  
THAT.



SHE'D HAD AN UNREQUIRED  
LOVE FOR ME FOR A  
THOUSAND YEARS--



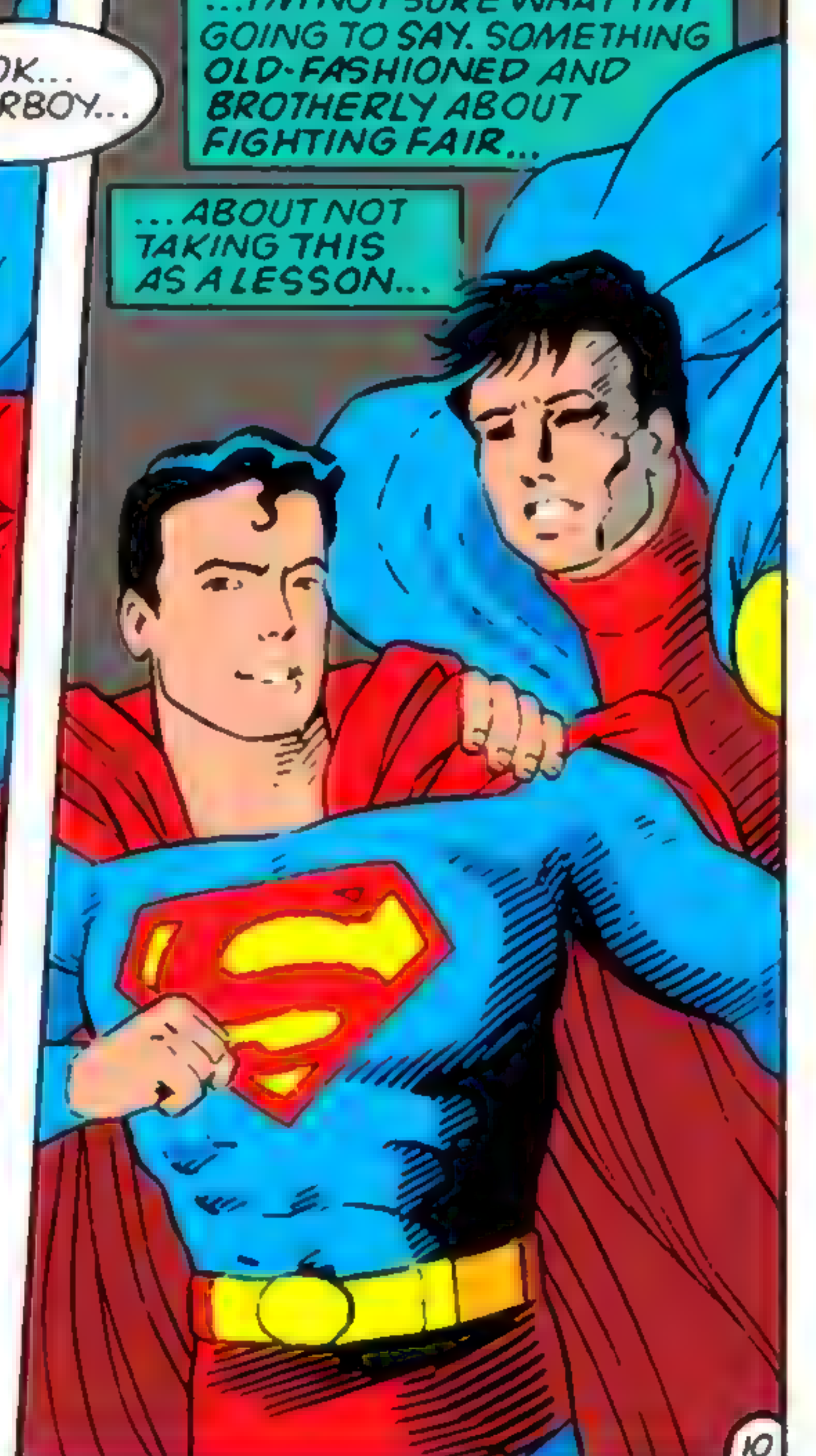
--AND TO USE  
IT AGAINST  
HER--TO MAKE  
HER DROPHER  
GUARD...



THAT'S ONE  
DOWN.

MORDRU ALONE  
IS PROBABLY AS  
BAD AS THE TWO  
OF THEM TOGETHER,  
BUT AT LEAST  
WE'RE GETTING  
SOMEWHERE!

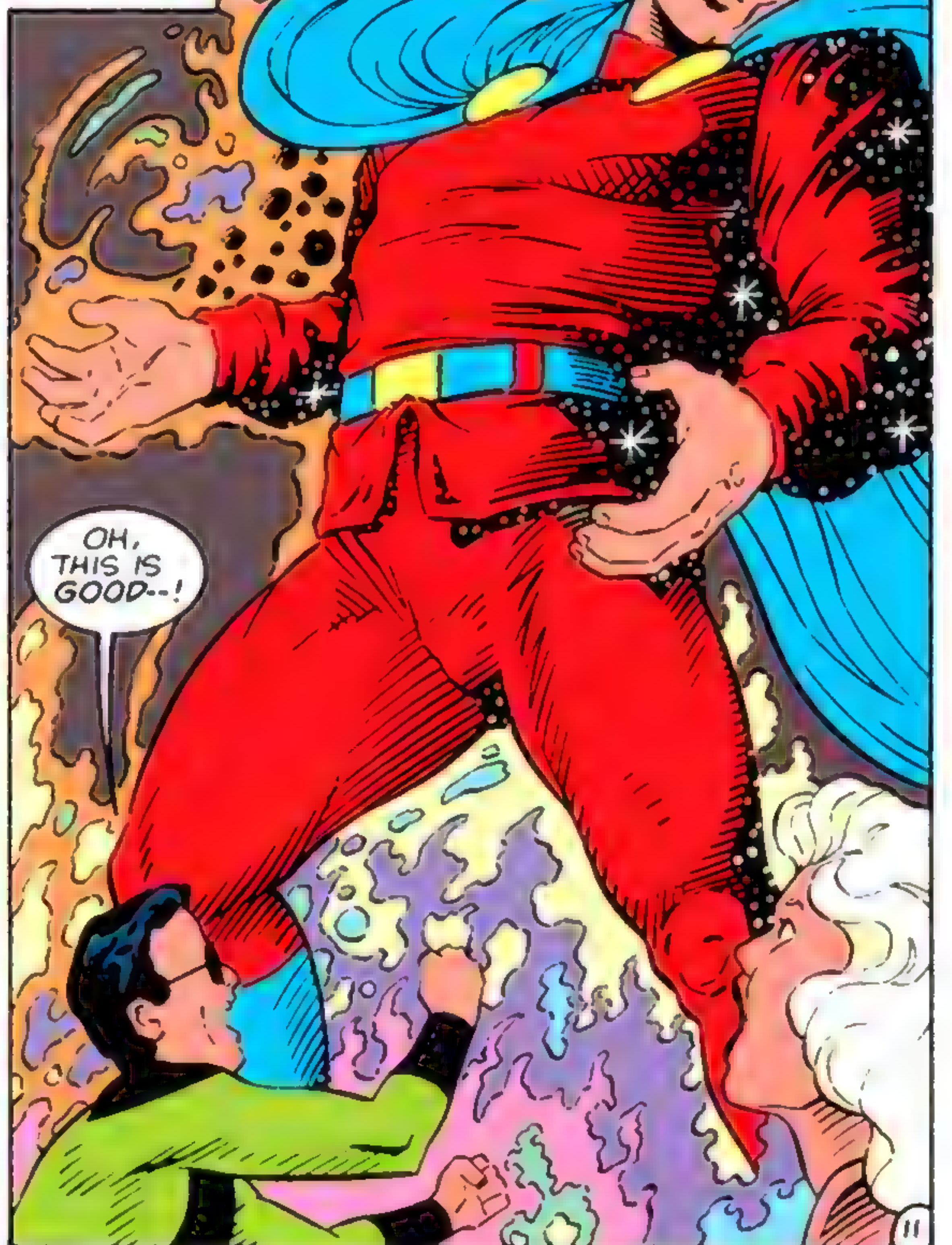
LOOK...  
SUPERBOY...



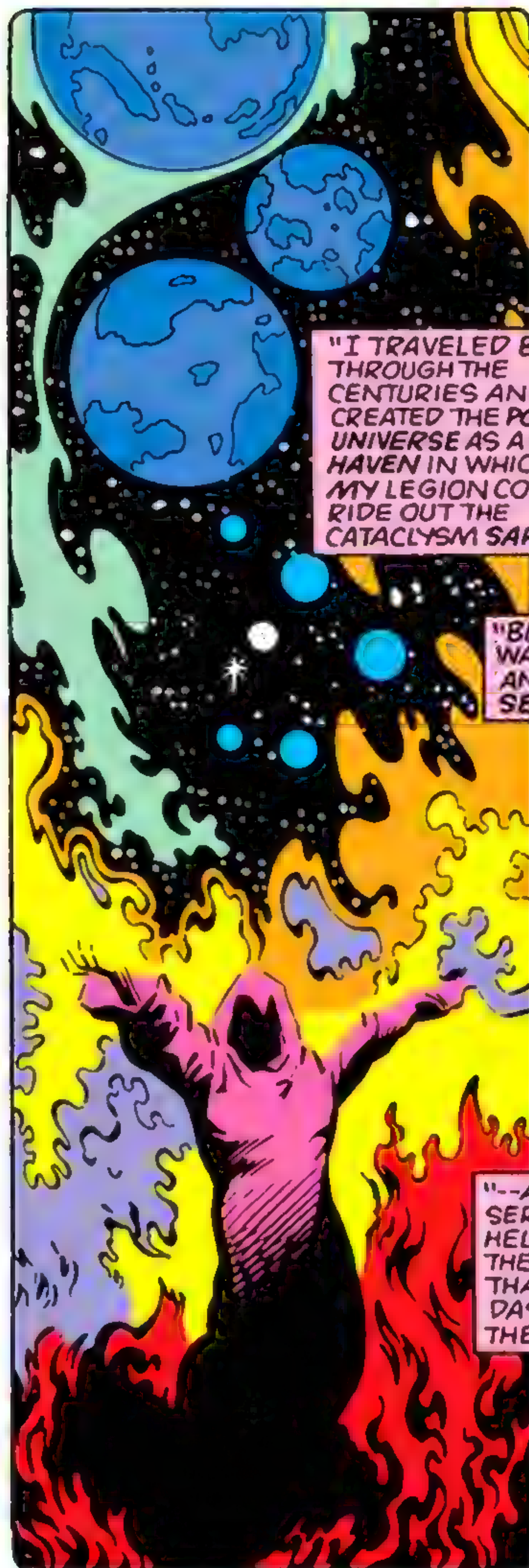
...I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M  
GOING TO SAY. SOMETHING  
OLD-FASHIONED AND  
BROTHERLY ABOUT  
FIGHTING FAIR...

...ABOUT NOT  
TAKING THIS  
AS A LESSON...













"I TRIED TIME AND TIME AGAIN TO SAVE THE LEGION..."

"...TURNING YOU AWAY FROM THE POWER OF THE CONCENTRATOR--"

"--SENDING THE MATTER MASTER TO AID YOU--"

"--SHIELDING GARTH AND IMRA'S WEDDING FROM THE CONTROLLERS..."



...BUT MY EVERY ATTEMPT ENDED IN FAILURE.

UH... I'LL ADMIT YOU'VE GOT ME BAFFLED, TRAPPER, BUT I'M NOT THAT FAR GONE.

THOSE THINGS DIDN'T HAPPEN THAT WAY.



NO, THEY DIDN'T. NOT NOW, NOT HERE.

IT WAS THE TWO LEGIONS. EVEN WITH ONE IN STASIS, THE PARADOX WEAKENED THE FABRIC OF TIME...

...WEAKENED IT DRASTICALLY.



"EVERY TIME I TRIED TO ALTER THINGS-- EVEN THE SMALLEST OF EVENTS--"

"--THE WEAKENED TIME-STREAM BUCKLED, DISTORTED, AND REBUILT ITSELF IN A NEW PATTERN.

"IT WAS ALWAYS DIFFERENT... AND NEVER AN IMPROVEMENT."

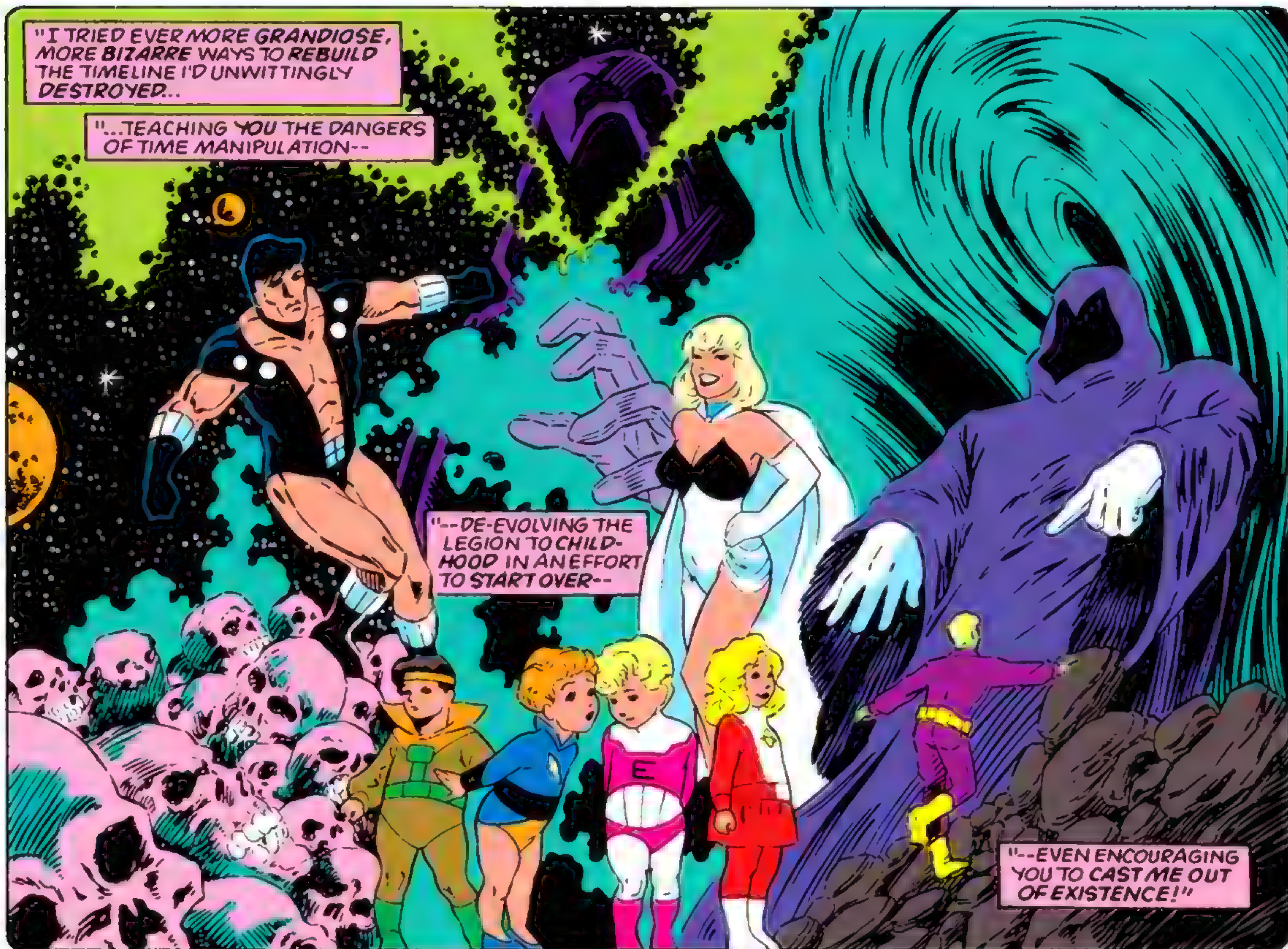


EVEN I WAS AFFECTED-- MY ACTIONS, MY MEMORIES-- AND THE TIMELINE I HAD STARTED OUT IN WAS GONE, DESTROYED FOREVER.

I COULDN'T REMEMBER WHAT WAS--

--SO I PRESSED ONWARD, IN THE HOPE I COULD CREATE IT ANEW.





"I TRIED EVER MORE GRANDIOSE,  
MORE BIZARRE WAYS TO REBUILD  
THE TIMELINE I'D UNWITTINGLY  
DESTROYED..."

"...TEACHING YOU THE DANGERS  
OF TIME MANIPULATION--

"--DE-EVOLVING THE  
LEGION TO CHILD-  
HOOD IN AN EFFORT  
TO START OVER--

"--EVEN ENCOURAGING  
YOU TO CAST ME OUT  
OF EXISTENCE!"

BUT THE MORE I TRIED,  
THE WORSE IT BECAME.  
THE TEMPORAL ALTERA-  
TIONS ONLY BECAME  
MORE PRONOUNCED--

--AND I BECAME  
TWISTED BY CONSTANT  
REVISION INTO SOME-  
THING EVEN I COULD  
NOT RECOGNIZE.

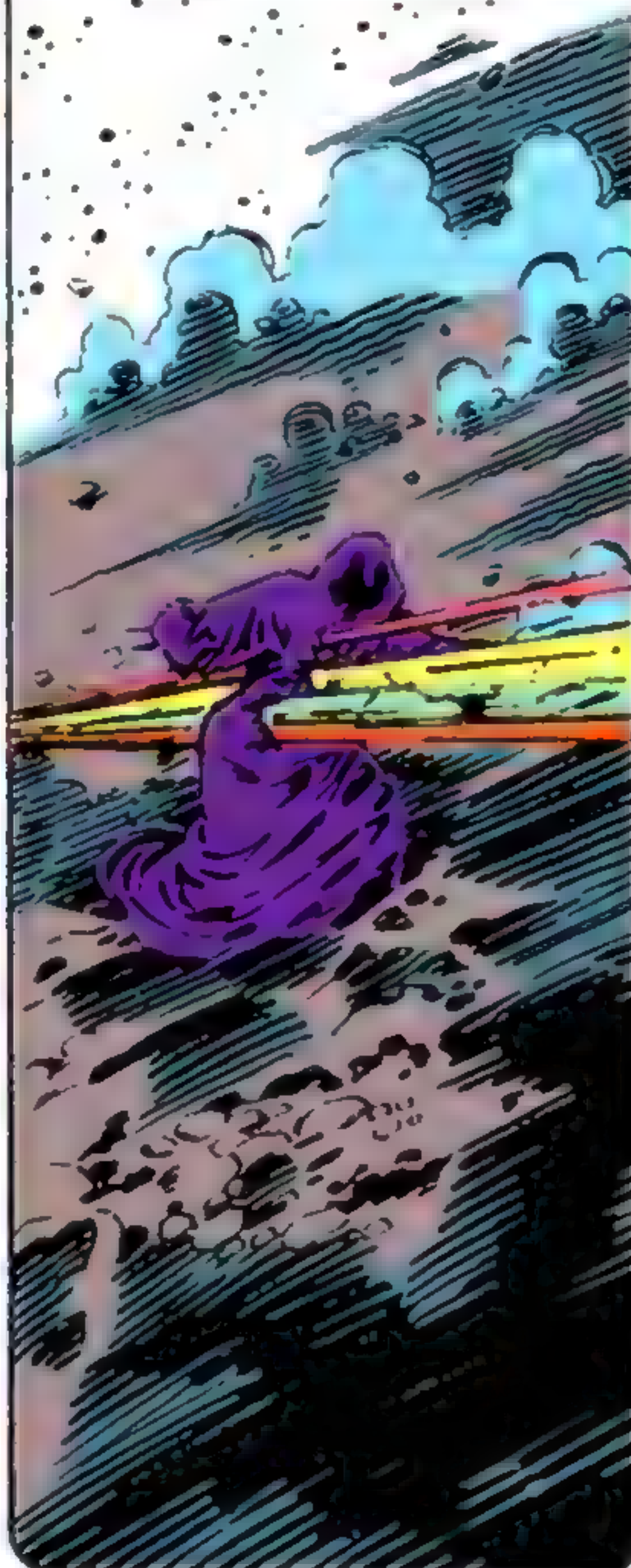
"EVEN SUCH MINOR POWERS  
AS GLORITH AND MORDRU  
BECAME ABLE TO DISTORT  
TIME TO THEIR BENEFIT--



"--SOMETHING THEY  
WOULD HAVE FOUND  
IMPOSSIBLE WITH-  
OUT THE PARADOX  
OF THE TWIN LEGIONS--

"--AND MATTERS  
GREW EVER  
WORSE.

"IN THE REALITY  
THAT EXISTS NOW,  
I FOUND MYSELF  
AT THE VERY END  
OF TIME, ATTACKED  
AND BATTERED--

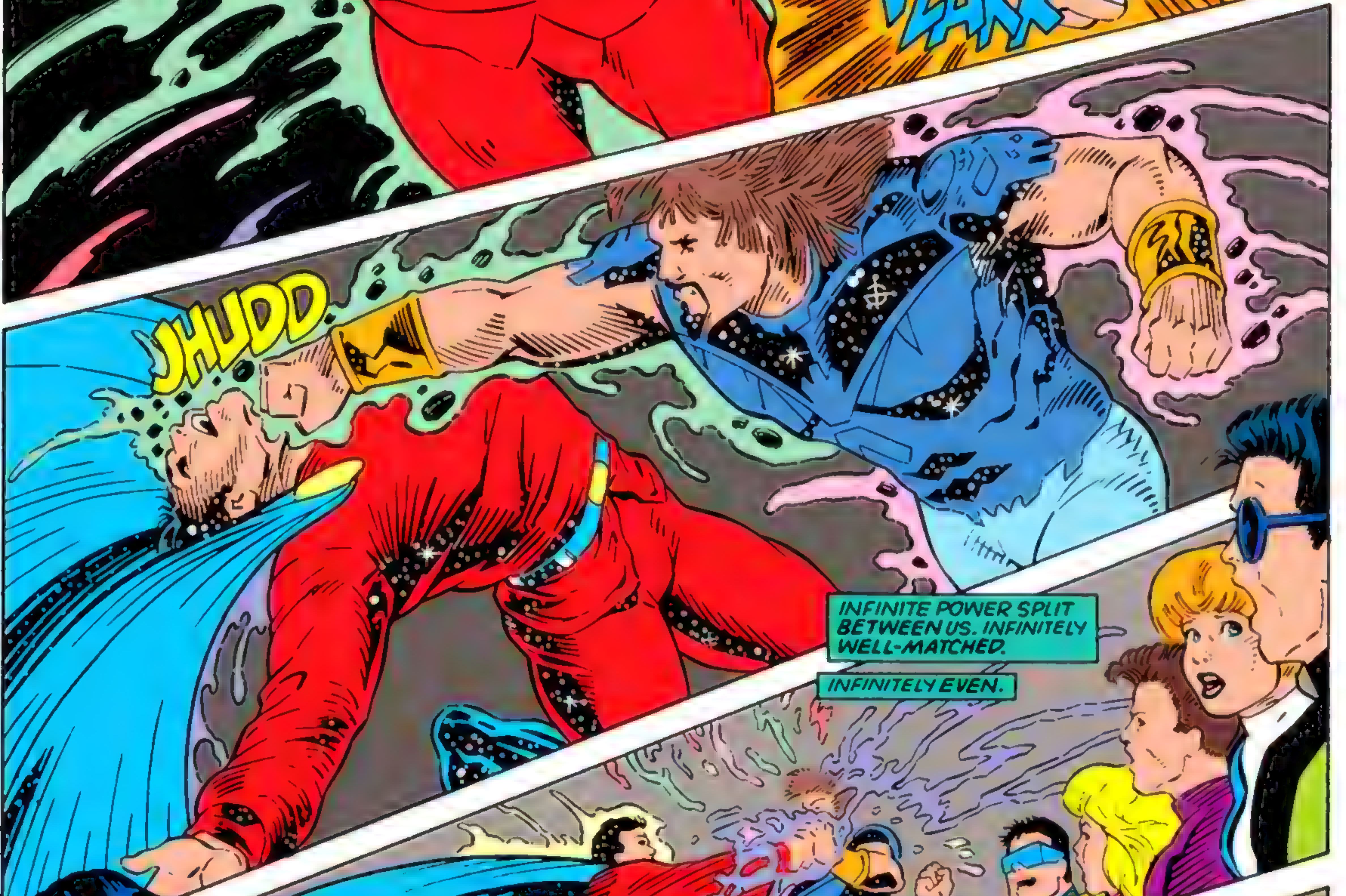


"--AND FLUNG HELP-  
LESSLY BACK THROUGH  
THE INCREASINGLY  
CHAOTIC TIMESTREAM.\*

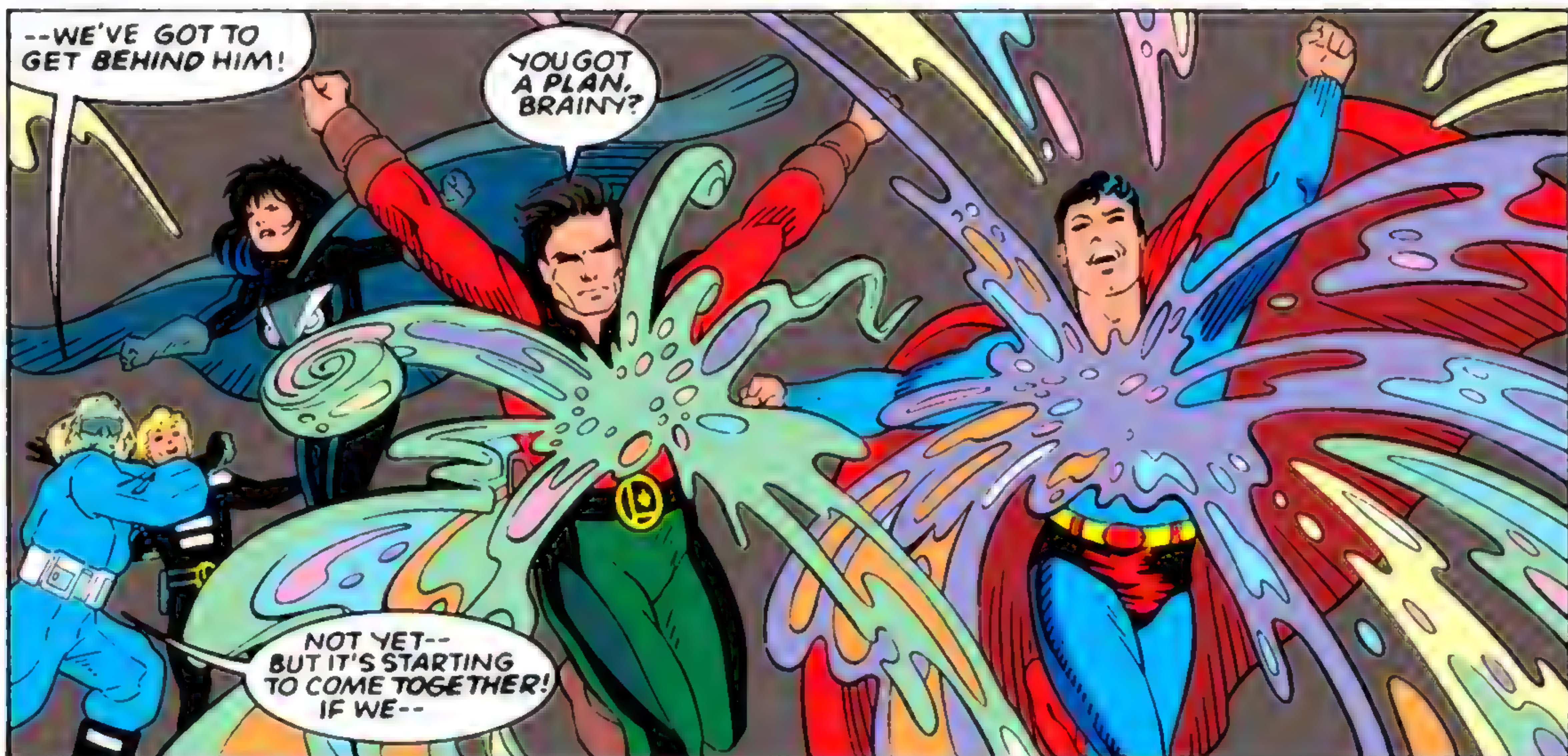


\*SEE ZERO HOUR #4.

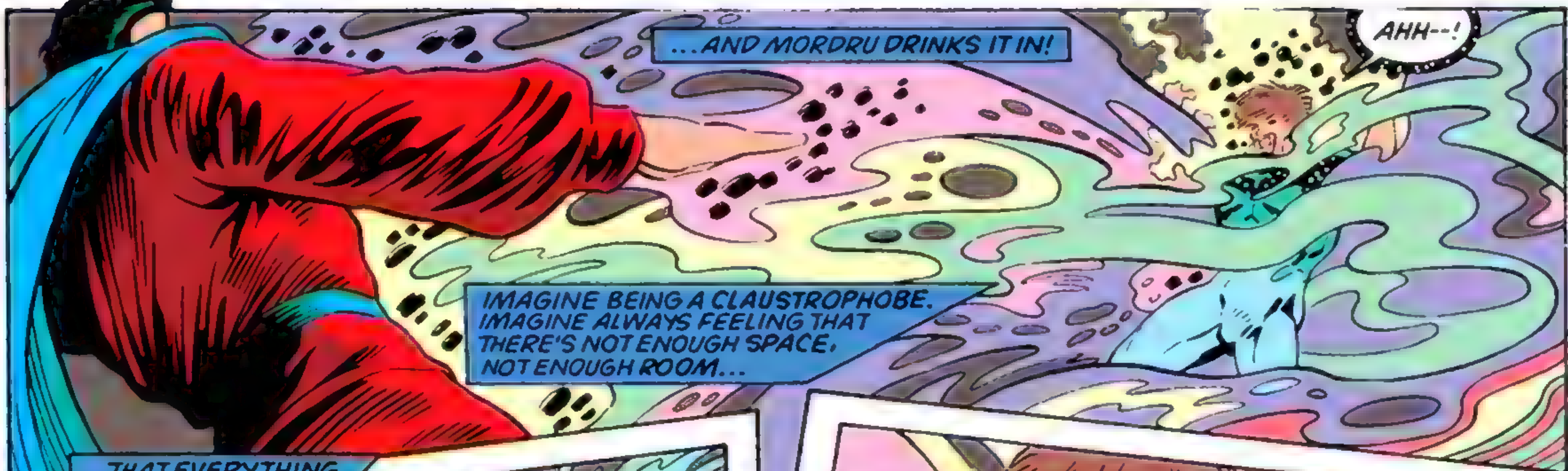












...AND MORDRU DRINKS IT IN!

AHH--!

IMAGINE BEING A CLAUSTROPHOBE.  
IMAGINE ALWAYS FEELING THAT  
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH SPACE,  
NOT ENOUGH ROOM...

...THAT EVERYTHING  
IS CLOSING IN ON  
YOU, PRESSING  
AT YOU.

NOW IMAGINE YOUR  
CONSCIOUSNESS  
SUDDENLY FREED--  
EXPANDING WITHOUT  
BOUNDARIES, WITH-  
OUT LIMITS...

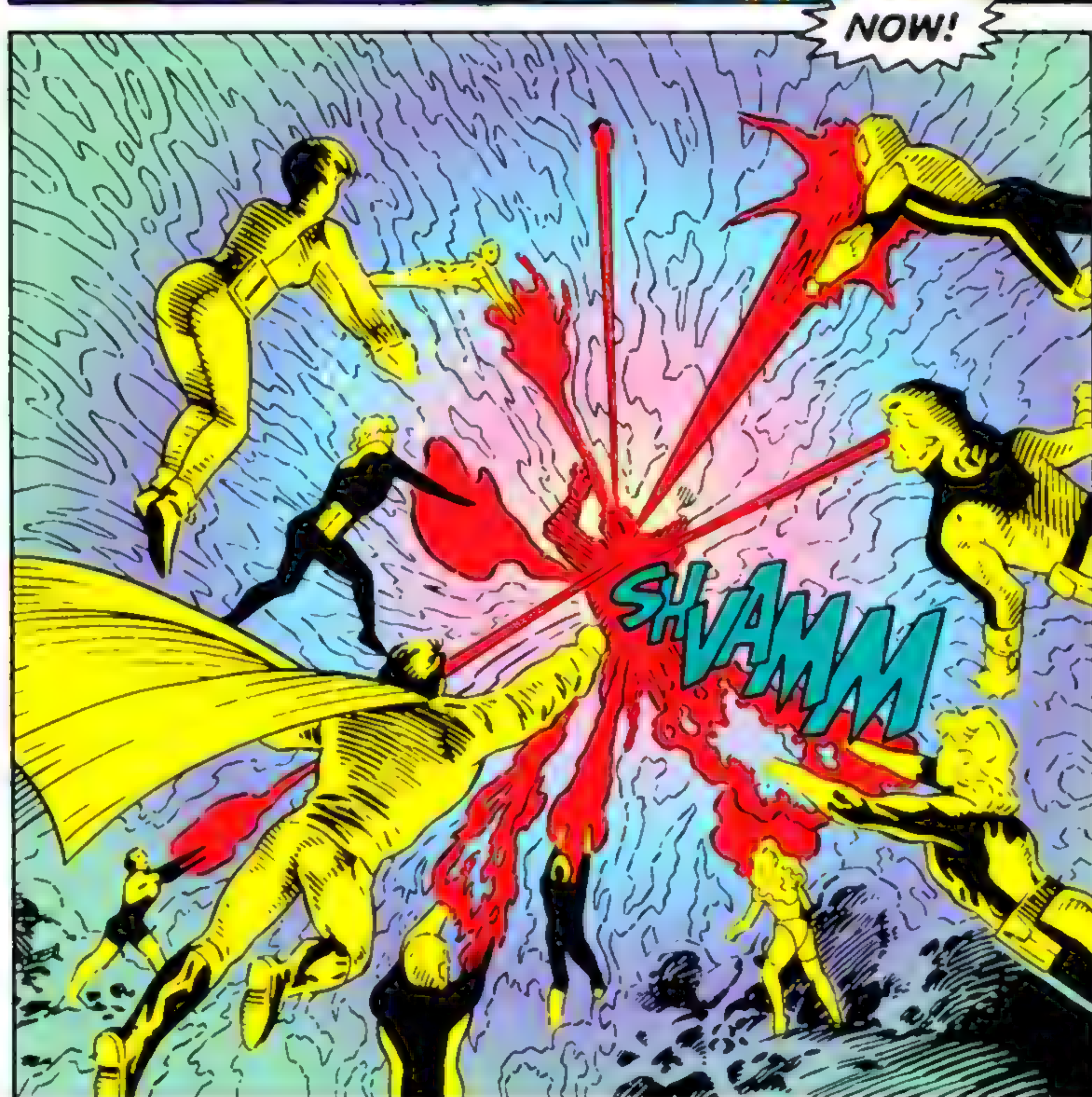
...EXPANDING TO FILL  
ALL OF SPACE  
AND TIME...

IMAGINE BEING ONE WITH THE  
UNIVERSE--YOUR ESSENCE  
FILLING EVERY NOOK AND  
CRANNY OF ALL THAT IS OR  
EVER WAS...

...AND IMAGINE IT NOT  
BEING BIG ENOUGH.

AAAAA AAAA AAAA





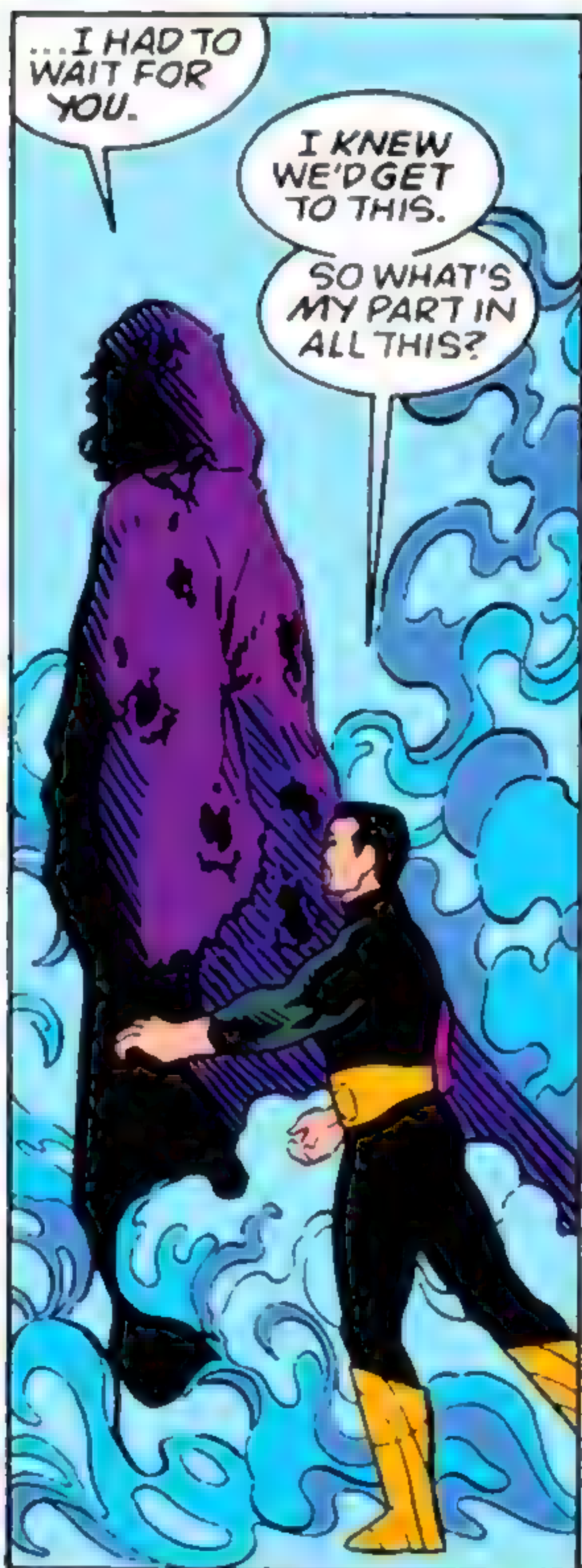




"THE BRUTAL SHOCK OF DEFEAT AWOKED MY MEMORIES... MY PURPOSE..."

"...I MADE MY WAY TO THIS SIDE OF THE LIBRARY AND WAITED-- A LAST, DESPERATE PLAN FORMING IN MY MIND."

"I HAD TO WAIT FOR HIM WHO I KNEW WOULD COME..."



...I HAD TO WAIT FOR YOU.

I KNEW WE'D GET TO THIS.

SO WHAT'S MY PART IN ALL THIS?

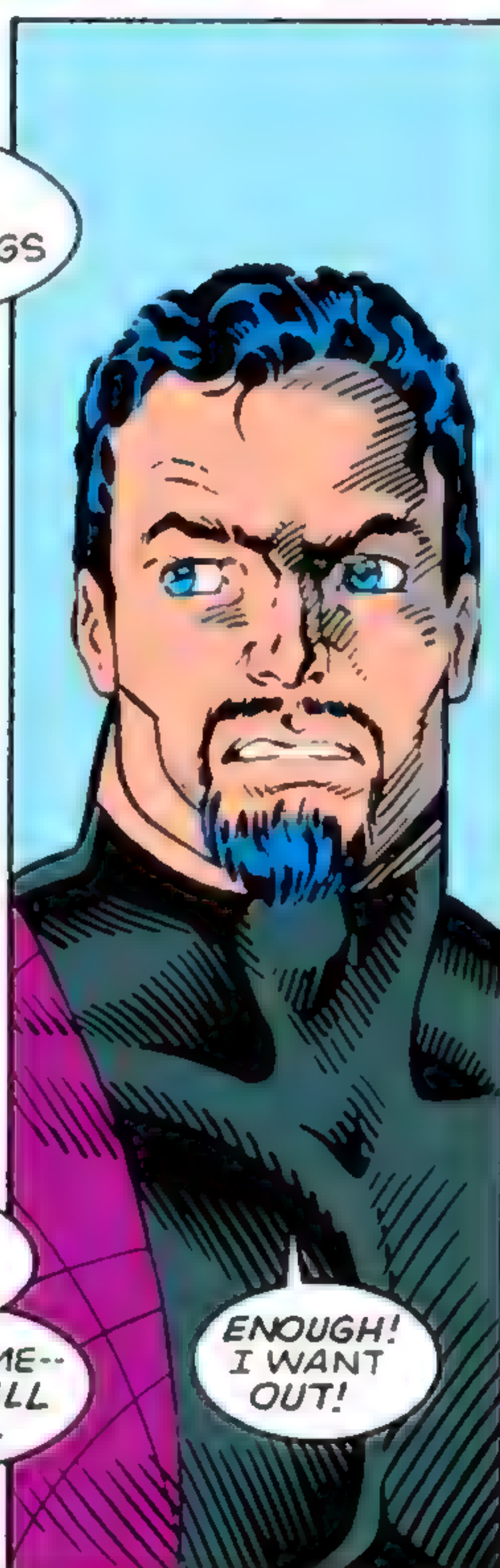


YOU ARE THE KEY-- THE CENTER OF IT ALL.

THIS TIME-- WITH YOUR AID AND AWARENESS-- THINGS CAN BE REPAIRED.

THEY CAN BE DIFFERENT.

THIS TIME-- IT CAN ALL WORK.



ENOUGH! I WANT OUT!



AS YOU WISH, ROKK. BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO--

--YOU CAN'T ESCAPE YOUR FUTURE.

WATCH ME! YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT ME ANYWAY, TRAPPER!



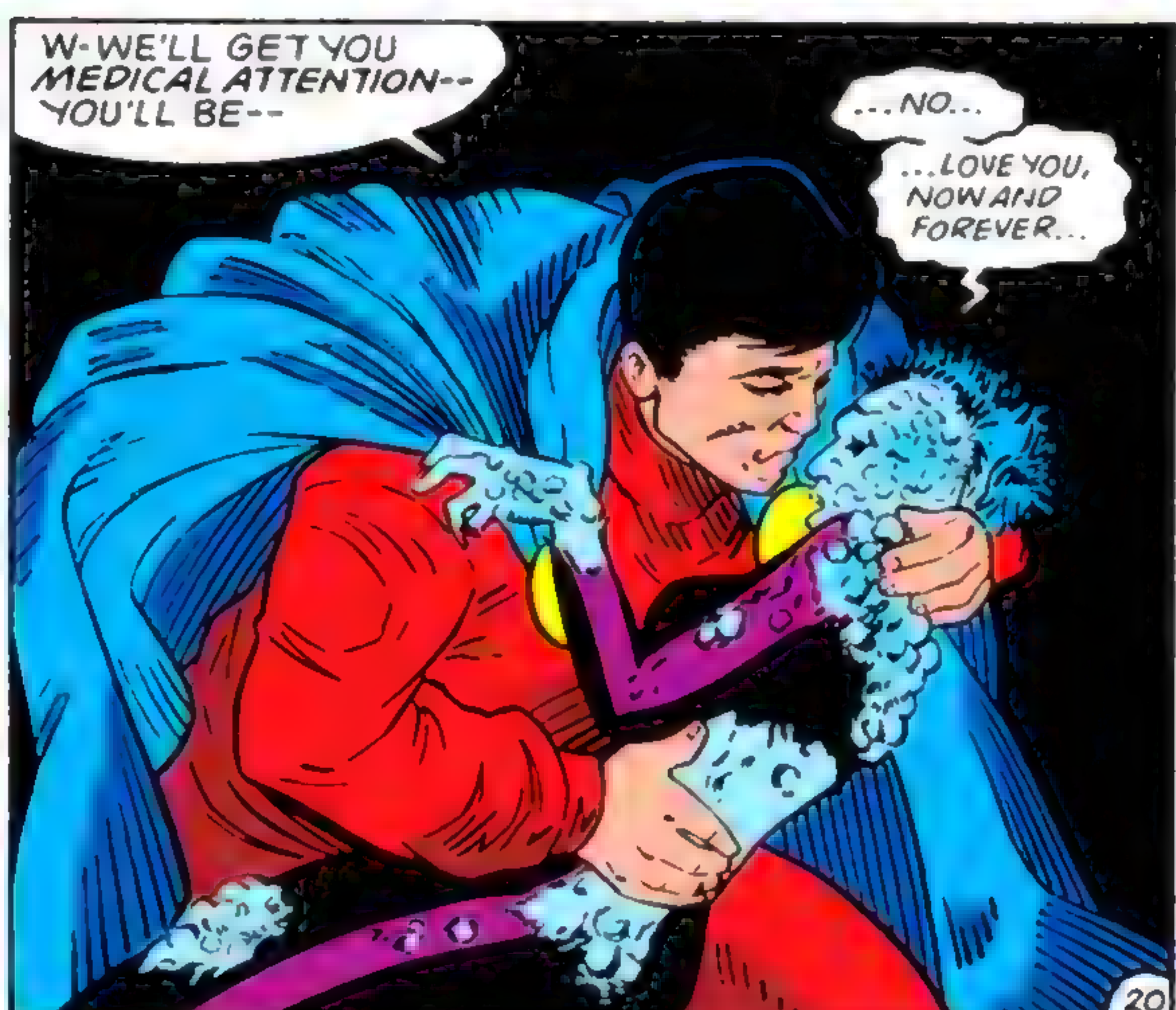
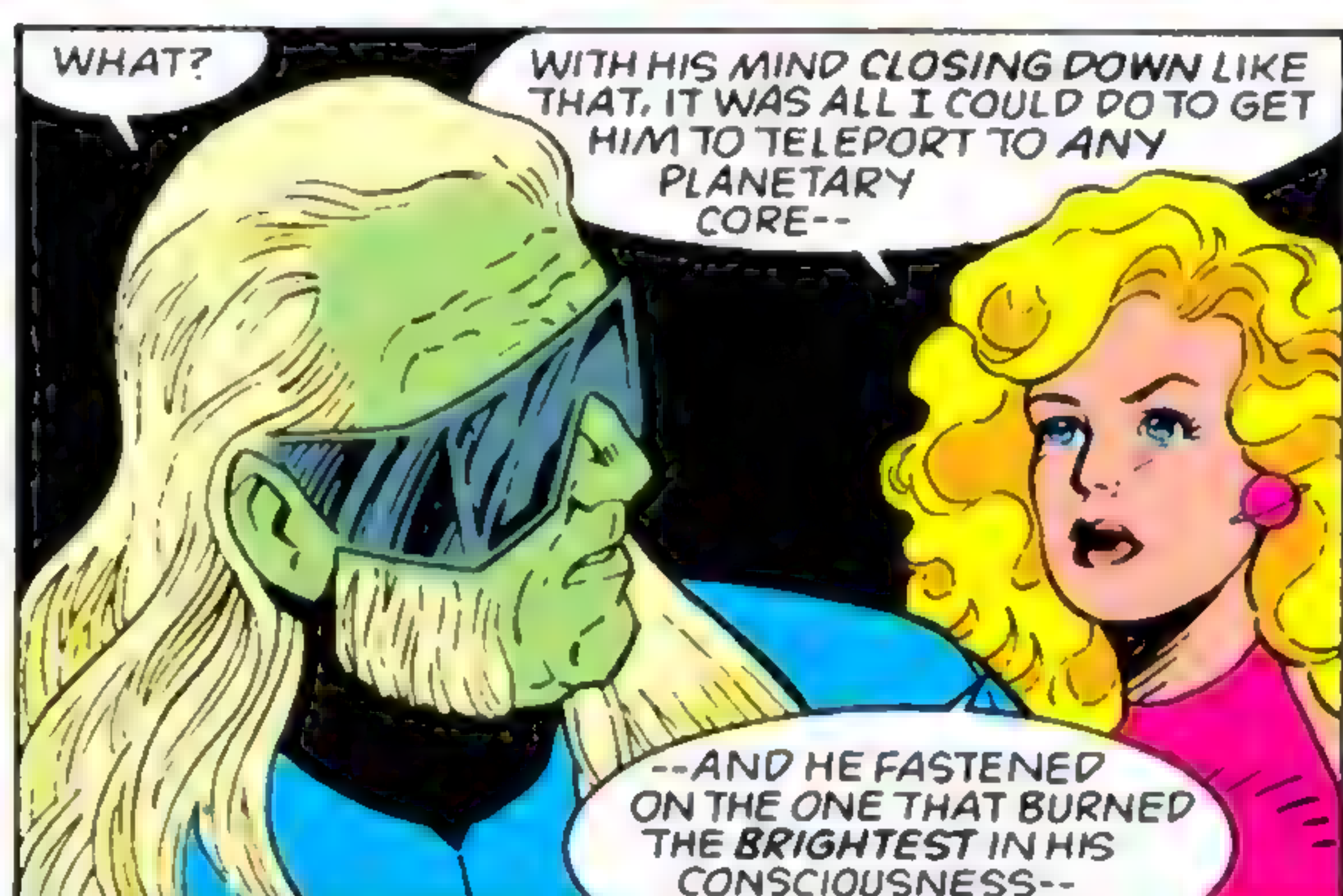
OF COURSE I CAN! YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE TIME TRAPPER'S MASTERY OVER THE CURRENTS OF TIME.

BUT I CAN BE MOST ACCURATE ABOUT THE DETAILS OF YOUR LIFE...

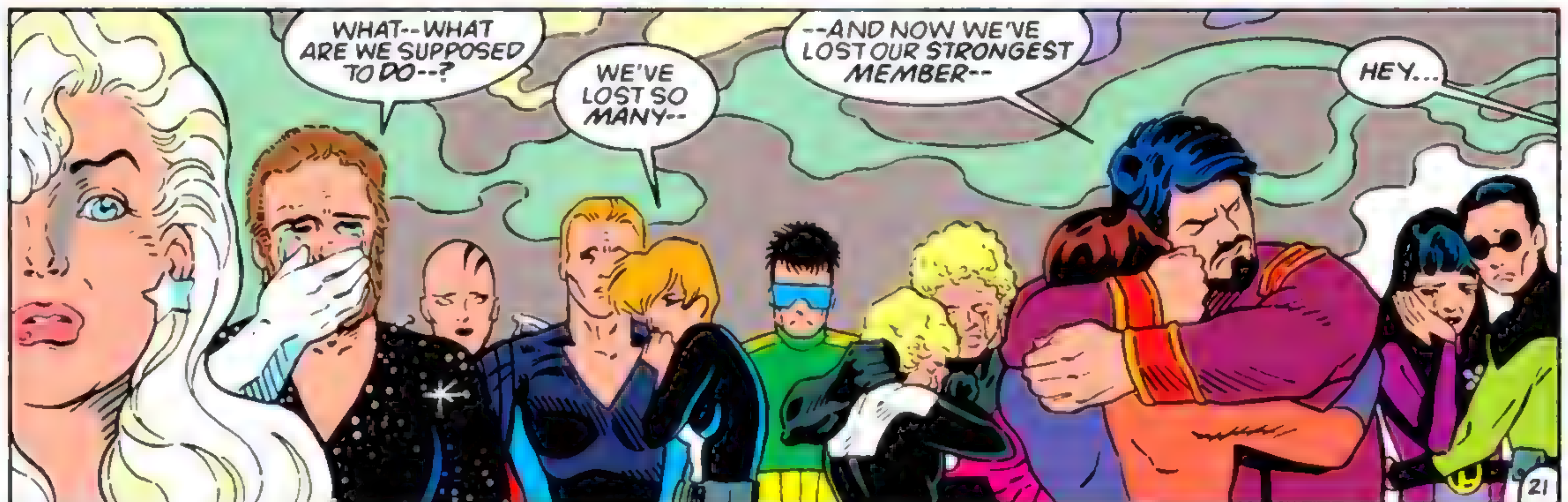
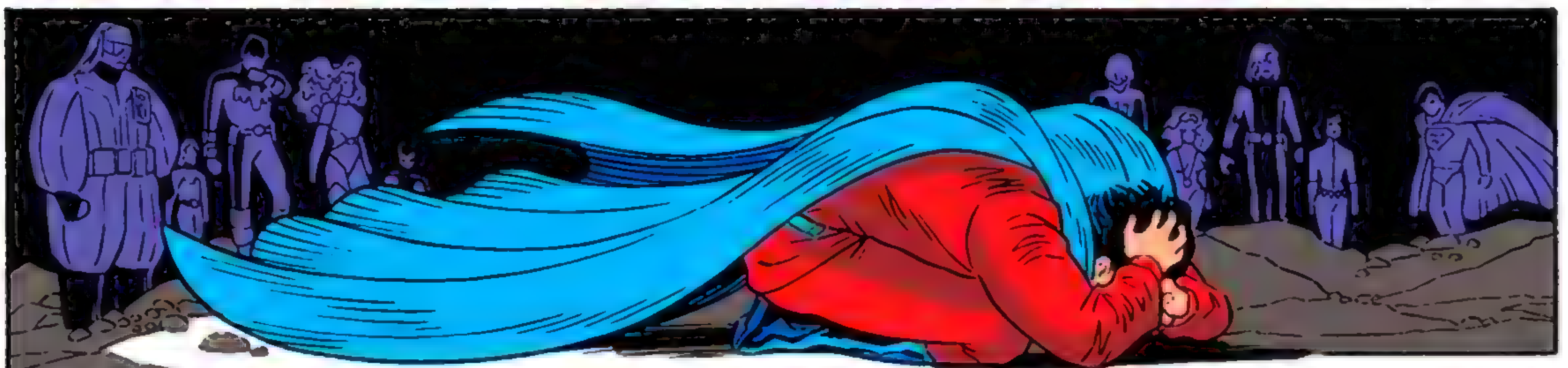
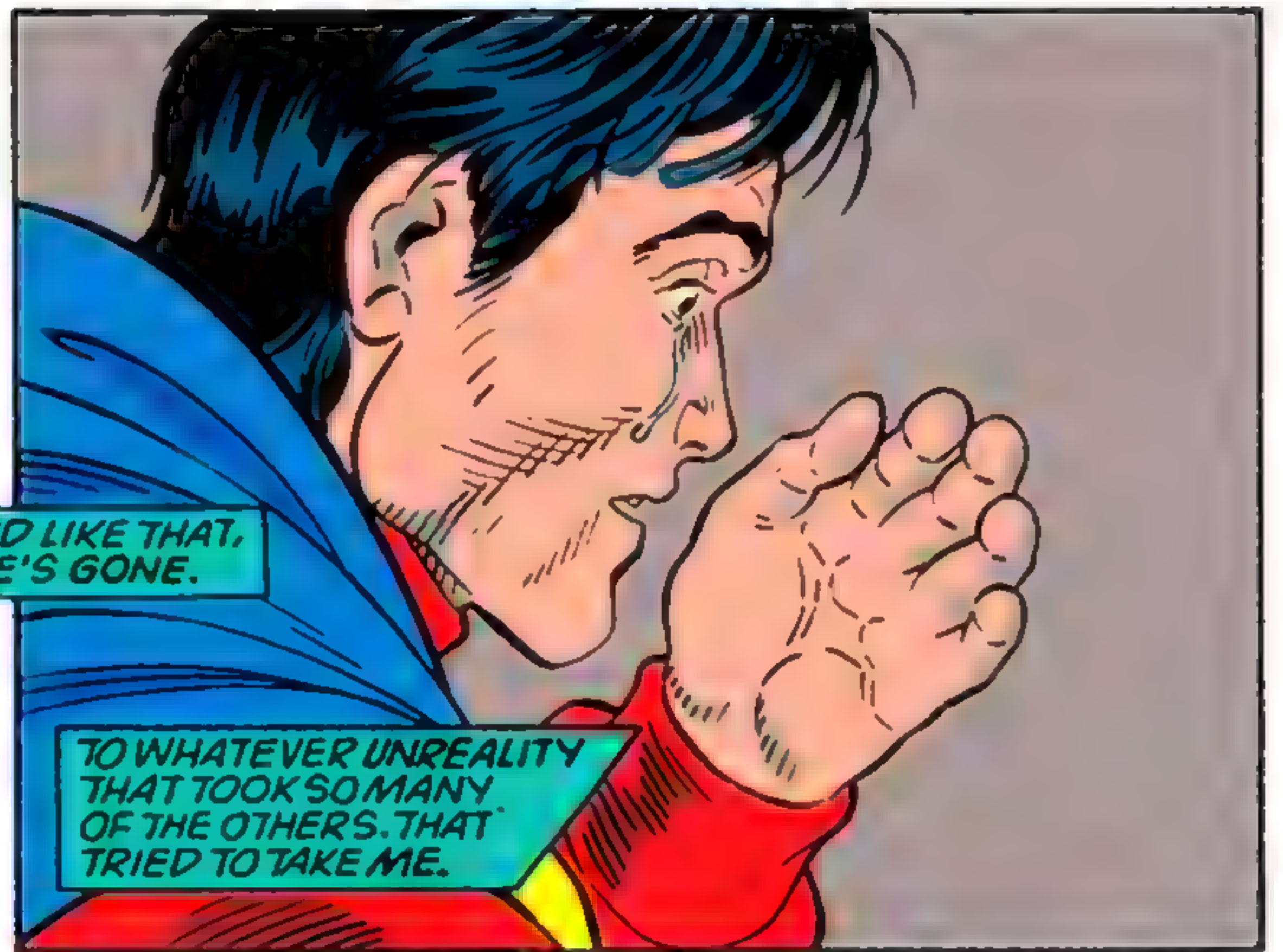
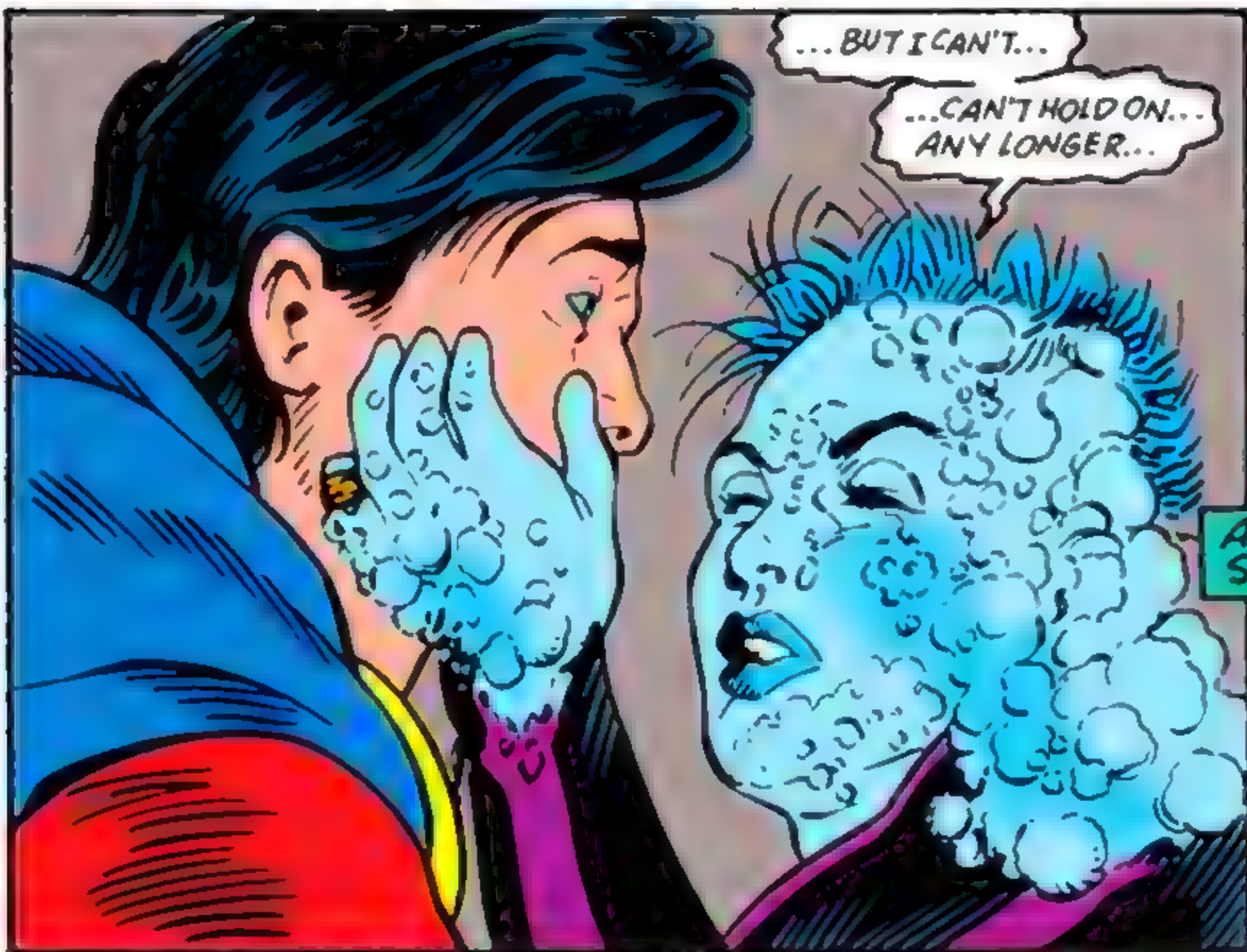
BLOODY NASS...

...IMPOSSIBLE...

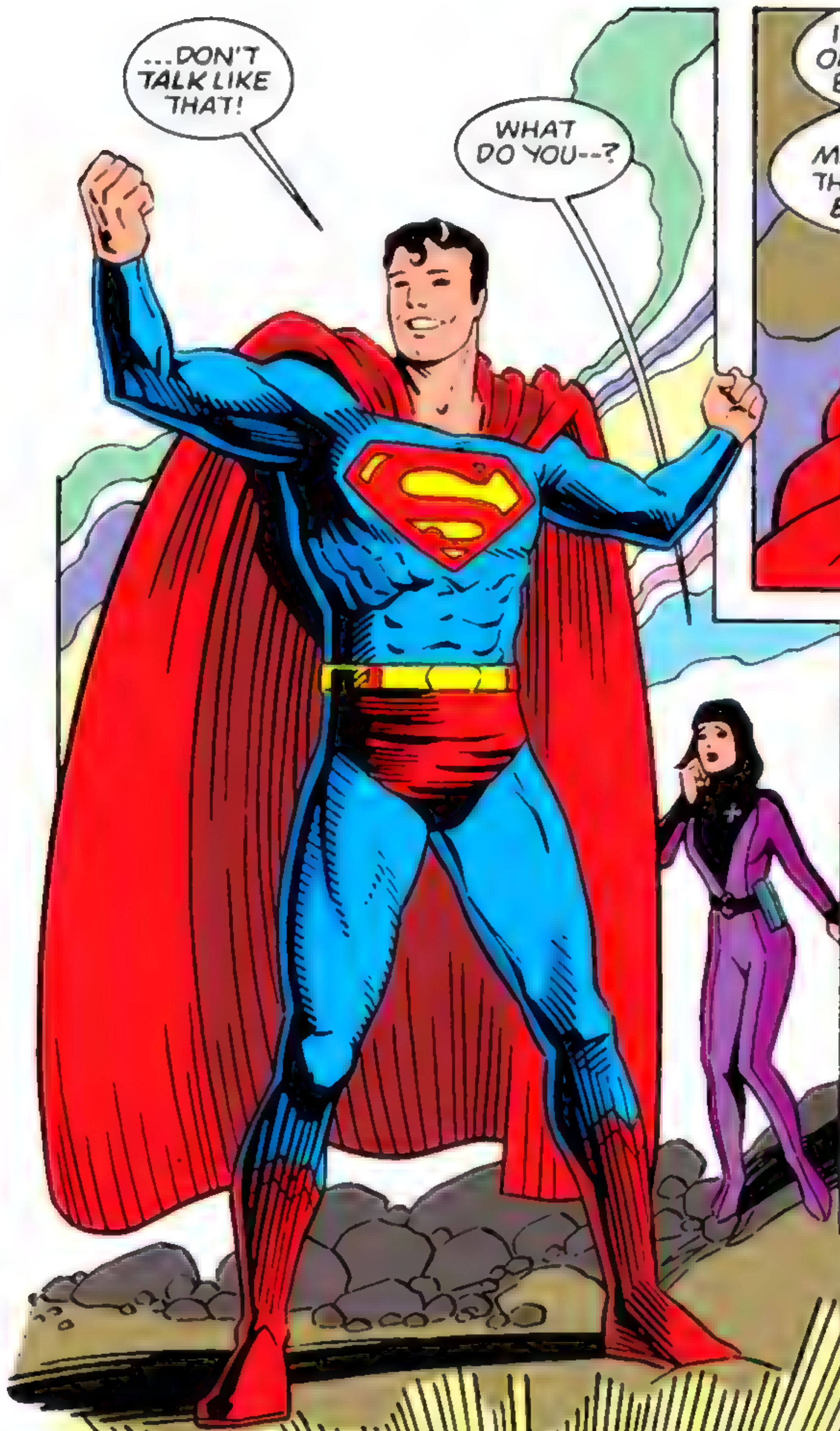




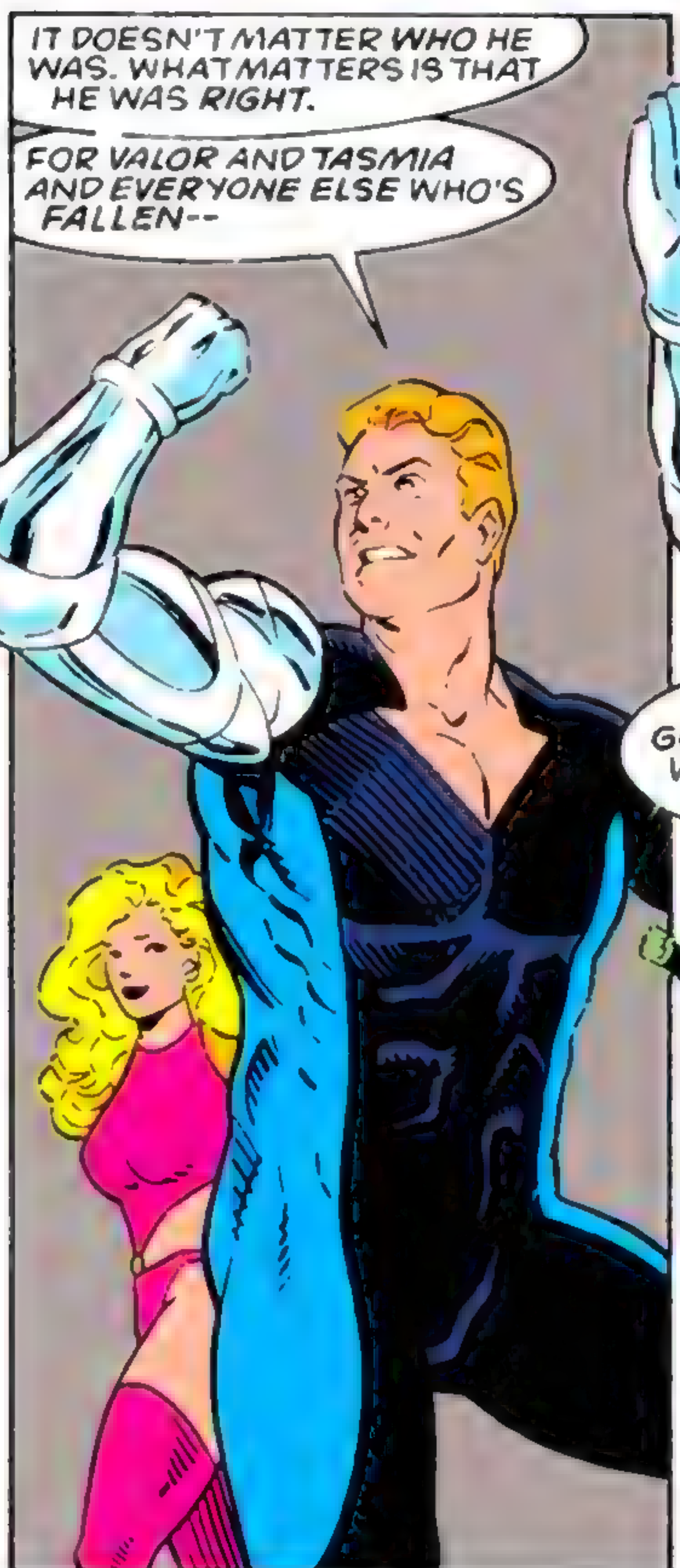
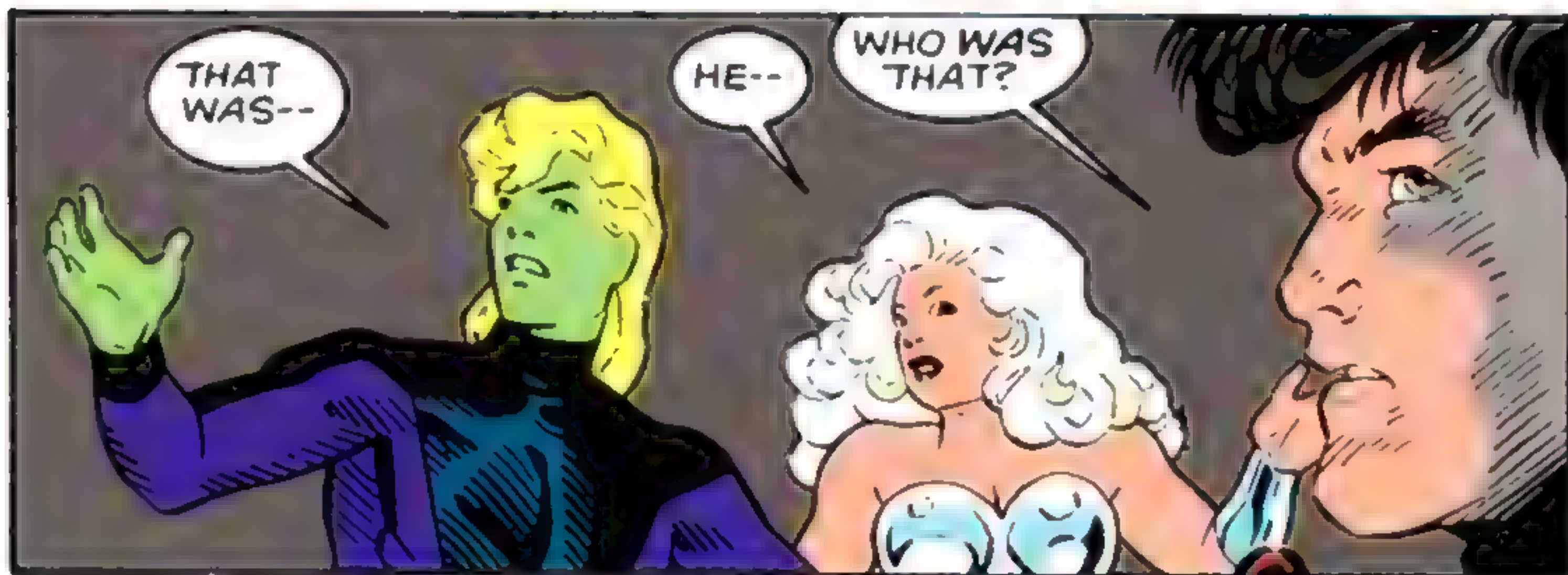




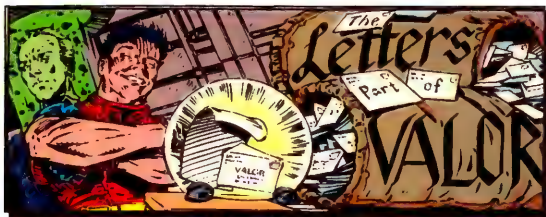












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**PREVIOUSLY** (in **LEGIONNAIRES** #18): Mordru and Glorith, now in possession of the awesome power of the Infinite Man, continued their endless choral conflict, which has now taken a terrible toll on the time-stream, the Legionnaires, and Valor.

Dear Mark Waid,

What an exciting writer you have become. I just finished reading **VALOR** #18. The story was fantastic. I am one solid Superman fan, but I tell you, this was more dramatic than the death of Supes. The appearance of the contemporary 30th-century Valor was surprising. Now I'm wondering what you'll do with all these time paradoxes. The anguish of Valor was very evident, and you could not have portrayed it more realistically. I know Valor is one of the toughest, most powerful heroes around (I still think Superman is more powerful), but reliving another thousand years in the Twilight Dimension would really crack anyone.

I expect stories concerning Valor from now on will be closely tied with the upcoming **ZERO HOUR** series (I can smell it coming); however, I am wondering how you will pull off all these stories concerning Valor, the Legionnaires, time paradoxes and other strange, confusing subject matter.

I remember very well how you put me in suspense for months during **FLASH** #73-79, the **Flash/Zoom** storyline. I was very entertained. Now I anticipate great stories concerning Valor.

I think that you are one of the most underrated writers who is often overlooked because you are not writing one of those overhyped books. Rest assured, I believe that in time, you will get your due as a writer. Someone like you has the potential to be ranked with megastars like Alan Moore, Chris Claremont,

Frank Miller, John Byrne and Neil Gaiman.

JET Golez

Paranaque, Philippines

*Wow, what can you say to that kind of complimenting? On Mark's behalf, thanks.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Eddie,

The original **CRISIS** cover with the death of Supergirl is one that I will always remember. I think you honored it well by choosing it as the inspiration for the cover of **VALOR** #18.

I think no one can blame this issue's Valor for his initial response. Only a fool would easily volunteer to go through the original experience that made him the Legionnaire we all love.

"I wouldn't. I already killed you once today," is a powerful, crazy, yet amusing line that defines the speaker, Glorith, perfectly. I keep turning to that page in the book.

In your pursuit to help new readers "catch up," remember to keep producing letters pages. When I started reading in 1993, and even when I add an ongoing title today, I always check the letters page, if printed, for information from established readers and the editor.

Melissa Page  
Nortonville, KY

*That's an interesting point, Melissa. We hope this ever-faithful column's presence helped readers get to know Lar Gand better.*

*Chris Coleman of Bolivar, TN, suggests that we go back to an old idea of ours where the subscription page gave a quick summary of the heroes' latest adventures and asked that if you wanted to know more, then subscribe. Not bad. We'll pass it along.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor,

Somehow I think that the cover of **VALOR** #18 should have read

"D.O.A.—Aftermath Part 1." It appears that this storyline will have a profound effect on this title for the rest of its long run as well as on the two Legion titles, for if the **SW6** Valor takes the place of the original Valor, then Valor in the 30th century is really the grown-up **SW6** Valor?!! Boy, is this weird! I'm not sure that all this is possible, though. I mean, that would mean that someone "re-created" a re-creation. Would you please quit making me think so much? My head's beginning to hurt.

The writing has been excellent, as has the art. The cover was also great, even if it was taken from **CRISIS** ON INFINITE EARTHS #7. It's still dramatic, though. Everything about this book is great, and I'm eager to see the outcome of this story.

Steven Leitman  
Cincinnati, OH

*As we're running out of time and space, let's leap to future letters-cols that would have been...*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Valor team,

With **VALOR** #19 the countdown to **ZERO HOUR** has truly begun. It looks like **ZERO HOUR** is going to be a fairly complex series, as is to be expected with any series that touches on the almost-impenetrable mess of continuity that DC's Legion series have become. I wonder if it's not going to be a little overwhelmingly complex for some tastes. Personally, I'm finding the various pieces of this jigsaw to be quite fascinating.

As for the patch-up job on the timeline this issue — well, it sums up Valor's heroism that he'd be prepared to make a sacrifice worse than death; trapped in a choral loop, forced to endlessly replay his own life. Incredibly noble. Doesn't this guy have any character defects?

Andy Oliver  
Essex, England

*He took off and ran when he first heard about his "future," didn't he?*



*But the mark of a hero is overcoming those defects. However, Christopher Walker of Pine Bluff, AR, thinks that Lightning Lad has just lost the title of "Unluckiest Legionnaire."*

*And don't worry—not only is ZERO HOUR pretty straightforward (for a time story, anyway), but once all is said and done, we hope to change your mind about the intricacies of Legion continuity.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Time Keepers,

Re: VALOR #20

Now I know where Cosmic Boy got the idea for that costume he wore in the 2970's!

Seriously, Colleen Doran's artwork continues to be the best reason to buy and read VALOR. Dave Cooper enhances her pencils beautifully. The Braalians whom our hero was forced to rescue and then fight were mighty impressive indeed. While most of the issue consisted of battle scenes, it was so well-drawn, inked and colored that I thoroughly enjoyed it.

As for the rest of the creative staff, I must congratulate you on two excellent cliffhangers in a row! Last issue, Valor was left with a 48-hour deadline, and this issue, because of the brawl with the Braalians, he fails to meet it! Not even Valor can be everywhere at once. I'm eager to see where you're going with this, and how Valor's actions and the effects of ZERO HOUR will change future history. I

enjoyed the surprise you pulled on us readers with Glorith, as well as the guest appearance of the Legionnaires and the Linear Men. New scripter Kurt Busiek scarcely missed a beat in picking up the reins from Mark Waid.

One thing bothers me, though: Since he's already out of sync with the "real" flow of time, couldn't Valor somehow be deposited at the end of his thousand-year term in the Buffer Zone? There must be some other way to "seed" all those future worlds. I realize that ZERO HOUR will probably answer my question—I just hate the idea of his having to endure the Zone all over again! The fate is too cruel, even for a super-hero!

Neil Ahlquist  
Minneapolis, MN

*With "End of an Era," part of your question should be answered. As for the future...*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear VALOR crew,

This time, I'm not writing about this issue's story (#20), but about a very disturbing ad page. I refer to the subscription page opposite page 20: SUPERMAN, SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL, WONDER WOMAN...Uh-oh. I guess I should have known, as an old Legion fan—I knew Lar Gand would have to get lost before too long. I'll still miss VALOR, though. It was fun while it lasted. I noticed TEAM TITANS is missing from the subscription page as well. ECLIPSO ended a few months ago. Were these three titles

created mainly to set up ZERO HOUR?

Christopher Walker  
Pine Bluff, AR

*Great detective work (this will earn you a double mention in this letter-col). Sadly, you are correct about VALOR, though as for this being all set up for ZERO HOUR—man, you give us a lot of credit. Thanks.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Colleen Doran would like to dedicate this issue of VALOR to Curt Swan, whose work has long been a source of inspiration for her.

**THE LAMENTING NEXT-ISSUE BOX:** Why? Well, because this is the penultimate chapter before the end that will be the beginning. Or plainly, this is the last issue of VALOR...

...but the adventure continues in LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #61, as "End of an Era" concludes with a bang you won't soon forget. And it won't be over there either as ZERO HOUR has arrived! When the smoke clears on that one, you'll be seeing Lar Gand, the Legion and the entire DC Universe in a whole new way!

From everyone here at VALOR Central, we'd just like to thank all you fans for your praise and support these past 23 issues. You made it worthwhile for us. Who knows? Maybe we can do it again sometime?

—Eddie Berganza

The sole survivor of issue #1, wondering who's gonna get the Blasters out of the Starlag?

# THE LAST LEGIONNAIRE

The "End of an Era" arrives in **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #61**

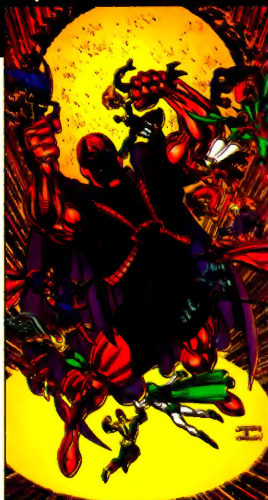




# DC UNIVERSE 19

With **ZERO HOUR** fast approaching, the time anomalies cropping up everywhere have affected not only the DC Universe but our readers as well. With speculation and rumors escalating at an incredible rate, no one can agree on what the DC Universe will be like after this five-issue weekly miniseries. Here are only a small fraction of the rumors we've heard here at Zero Hour Central. While some of these may actually be true, others... well, judge for yourself...

- **Barbara Gordon** becomes Batgirl again; meanwhile, Azrael assumes the identity of Oracle, setting the stage for "OracleFall," "Oracle: The Crusade," "OracleQuest: The Search," and "OraclesEnd."
- **The Spectre** is revealed as the main villain behind ZERO HOUR, leading to a major battle between him and the DC Universe!
- **Damage's** real parents: The Human Bomb and Phantom Lady!
- **The JSA, JLI and L.E.G.I.O.N.** fall!
- **Phase** regains her memory and returns to the 30th century!
- **Phase** returns to the 30th century but doesn't regain her memory!
- **Damage's** real parents: Libby Lawrence and Dan the Dyna-Mite!
- **Captain Carrot and His Amazing Zoo Crew** return to save the day in Zero Hour!
- **Casualties: Hawkwoman! The Atom! Waverider! Valor** — again!
- **The Ray** becomes a member of the New Titans! Dick Grayson becomes **Robin** again! **Warrior** finally decides on a costume!
- **Damage's** real parents: HAWK and DOVE?!?
- **Villains: Glorith! The Anti-Monitor! The Time Trapper! Monarch!**
- **Gunfire** blows up the world!
- **Battle of the Superboys! Return of the Insect Queen! Turtleboy Unlimited!**
- **Anima, The Ray, Superboy and Damage** form a new teenage superteam!
- We learn it was Hal Jordan's *clone* who went bad in "Emerald Twilight." The *real* Hal Jordan has been wandering around Europe since issue #150!
- **The Justice League** will be reunited with a long-lost member!
- **The Legion of Super-Heroes** and the **Legionnaires** — together again for the very last time!  
and last, but certainly not least....
- **Mike Carlin** is revealed to be the main villain of ZERO HOUR!



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**MEET ZERO HOUR  
WRITER/PENCILLER  
DAN JURGENS  
AND INKER  
JERRY ORDWAY  
AT THE  
DC MEGABOOTH**



# WELCOME TO THE 30TH CENTURY.

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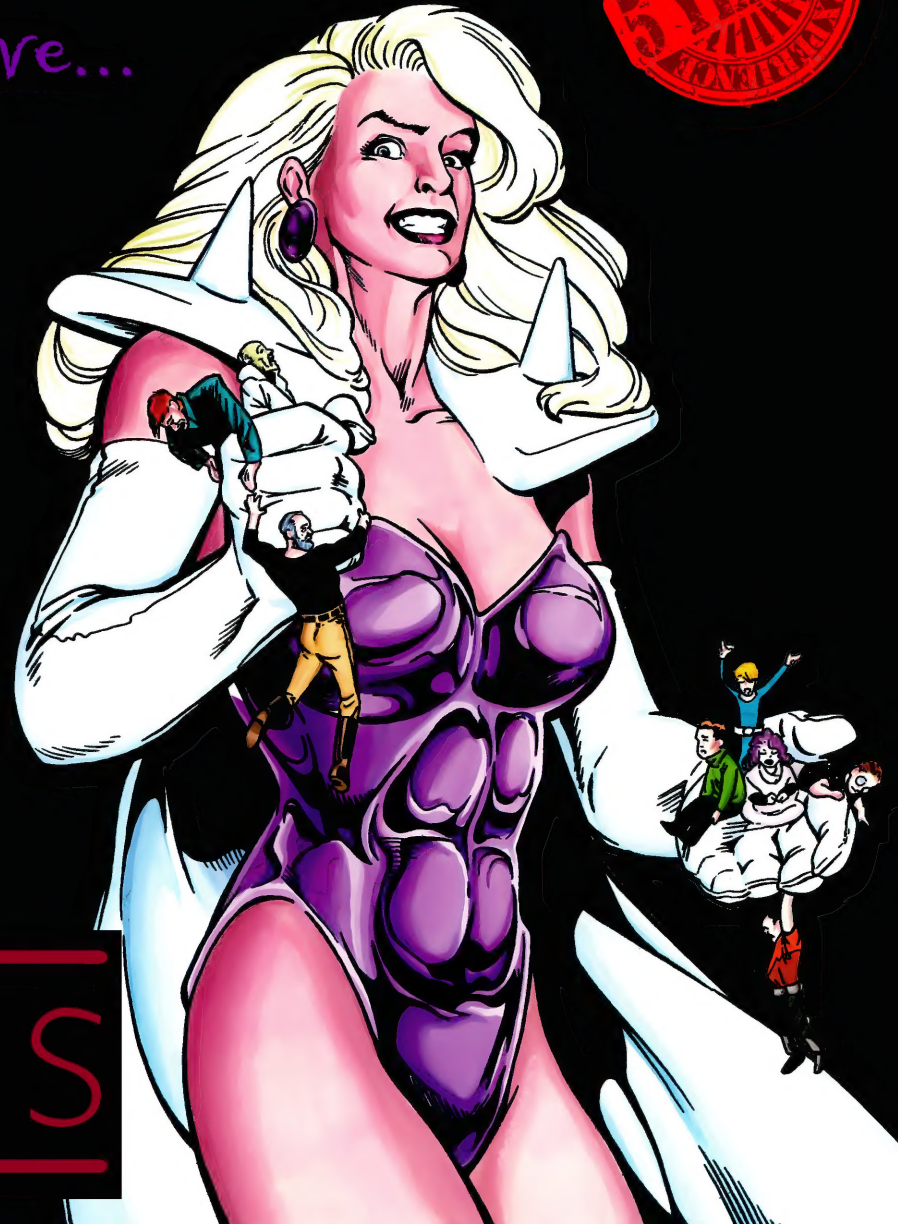
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**-a part of ZERO HOUR-**





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